



The Great God Pan

By Donna Jo Napoli

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Pan, both goat and god, is a curious being who roams nature searching, wondering, and frolicking with maenads and satyrs. He plays melodies on his reed flute, wooing animals to listen. He is a creature of mystery and delight. One day in his travels, Pan meets Iphigenia, a human raised as the daughter of King Agamemnon and Queen Clytemnestra. Pan is captivated by the young princess. Set against a landscape of myth and legend, Napoli's latest tale is a love story wrought with sincere emotion and all that is great about the Gods.

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The Great God Pan By Donna Jo Napoli Bibliography

- Sales Rank: #2366406 in Books
- Published on: 2003-05-13
- Released on: 2003-05-13
- Original language: English
- Number of items: 1
- Dimensions: 7.75" h x .60" w x 5.50" l,
- Binding: Hardcover
- 160 pages

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Editorial Review

From School Library Journal

Grade 8-10-Meet Pan: half-god/half-goat, full of life, frolicking in the woods with maenads, playing his pipes, and creating pan-ic. In Napoli's version of the story, he meets Iphigenia by chance and falls in love with her. Innocence disappears, and the curse placed upon him at birth-that he will never be loved-seems destined to come true, for his life revolves around finding her again. And he does find her, just as she is about to be sacrificed by her own father. Pan devises a trick to save Iphigenia's life at the expense of his own, his love for the woman outweighing his lust for life. Napoli has written a fine story-it is fast paced, the characters and setting are well realized, and it even has intrigue and randy scenes of woodland romps tailored for teens. However, scholars of Greek mythology will find a strange dichotomy in this story: many bits of the known tales of both Pan and Iphigenia are here, but there is also a fabricated story that connects the two characters. Napoli has included many details from ancient texts, providing needed background for mythology novices. However, she has also created a story that fills in the "gaps" in each tale, rewriting myth for modern readers. Purists may find fault with this, but teens who enjoyed books such as Caroline Cooney's *Goddess of Yesterday* (Delacorte, 2002) will simply find a good story.

Angela J. Reynolds, Washington County Cooperative Library Services, Hillsboro, OR

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From [Booklist](#)

Gr. 7-10. As she did with *Zel* (1996) and *Sirena* (1998), Napoli reweaves an ancient story. Using first person, she boldly tells the tale of the god Pan, half man and half goat, and makes it a wrenchingly tender epic. Pan, the source of the word *panic* and of the pan pipes, is unsure of his parentage and of his place in the universe. Where does he belong? Whom can he count on? Who will love him? Napoli offers a beautiful metaphor of adolescence in Pan's dual journey of human and animal, god and mortal. When Pan falls in love with the princess Iphigenia, for whom a terrible fate awaits, he finds a way, at last, of saving her. Filling in gaps that appear in other myths about Pan and Iphigenia, Napoli creates a novel filled with breathtaking language about nature, music, and desire. Teen readers will swoon. *GraceAnne DeCandido*

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Review

Praise for Daughter of Venice:

"Napoli's many fans will not be disappointed by this engrossing and exotic novel."—*School Library Journal*, Starred

Praise for Crazy Jack:

"This beautifully written novel offers something for everyone."—*Booklist*, Starred

Users Review

From reader reviews:

Alan Dean:

Have you spare time for a day? What do you do when you have considerably more or little spare time? Yeah, you can choose the suitable activity regarding spend your time. Any person spent their own spare time to take a walk, shopping, or went to the particular Mall. How about open as well as read a book allowed The

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Jerold Niemi:

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Ralph Sanchez:

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